

# Retribution

Strange, vast, life giver.

An unlikely paradise, this latent beauty.

Gaea's masterpiece, humbling all else in creation.

God's gift to man and beast alike.

Once so bold and proud, crippled by greed and ignorance.

Warped into a pale and hollow silhouette.

These Elysian Fields twisted to become a grotesque caricature.

Terrestrial perfection now made lame by shallow man.

Responsibility falls on irresponsible shoulders.

What man made weak in turn he must rejuvenate.

Lest his folly bring calamity and man pays for his offenses.

His toll be paid in blood and tears to tempests and superficial earth.

**William Weisler**  
**First Place Winner**  
**Group 4 – Ages 14-18**  
**Grace King High School**  
**Metairie, LA**